

## Message Text

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13-12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 EB-07 COME-00 SSO-00

ORM-02 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01

SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05 SCS-03 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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O R 161150Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2377

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2975

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, VE

SUBJECT: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING

1. THE OWENS-ILLINOIS REPRESENTATIVES LONGEN AND COLEMAN INFORMED THE CONSUL GENERAL ON MARCH 15 THAT THE KIDNAPPERS HAD ISSUED A NEW "COMMUNIQUE" THE PREVIOUS EVENING. THE DOCUMENT WAS RETRIEVED BY THE POLICE FOLLOWING A PHONE CALL TO THE HOME OF A DR. KLINOS WHO HAS NO APPARENT CONNECTION WITH THE CASE. THE POLICE VISITED LONGEN AND COLEMAN LATE AT NIGHT ON MARCH 14 TO QUESTION THEM ABOUT THE DOCUMENT. IT APPARENTLY REFERS TO A PRECEDING "COMMUNIQUE NO. 5" WHICH NEITHER THE POLICE NOR THE COMPANY HAD EVER SEEN. PASSAGES IN THE LATEST COMMUNIQUE INDICATE THAT "COMMUNIQUE NO. 5" SETS A DEADLINE OF 120 HOURS IN WHICH THE COMPANY MUST PUBLISH THE KIDNAPPERS' ORIGINAL MANIFESTO IF NIEHOUS IS TO REMAIN ALIVE. SINCE NO ONE CONCERNED HAS AS YET SEEN THE SO-CALLED "COMMUNIQUE NO. 5", THE DATE ON WHICH THIS PERIOD BEGAN TO RUN IS UNKNOWN.

2. THE POLICE SHOWED COLEMAN AND LONGEN PORTIONS OF WHAT APPARENTLY CAN BE DESCRIBED AS "COMMUNIQUE NO. 6" BUT DID  
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NOT PERMIT THEM TO READ THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT. IT WAS CLEAR THAT

THE POLICE SUSPECTED THE OI REPRESENTATIVES OF WITHHOLDING "COMMUNIQUE NO. 5." THEY GAVE EVERY ASSURANCE THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE BUT WERE LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE AUTHORITIES HAVE BROKEN DOWN BECAUSE OF THE SUSPICION IN THE LATTER QUARTER THAT OI HAS NOT BEEN COOPERATING FULLY. (WE HAVE MADE INFORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE POLICE SEEKING A BETTER ATMOSPHERE IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE COMPANY AND WILL DO SO AGAIN.) WHAT THE OI REPRESENTATIVES DID SEE OF "COMMUNIQUE NO. 6" INDICATES THAT THE KIDNAPPERS CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT THEIR MANIFESTO BE PUBLISHED IN VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS HERE AND ABROAD AND BE READ ON TWO CONSECUTIVE DAYS OVER THE RADIO AT 1215 P.M. ACCORDING TO COLEMAN, THE LATEST COMMUNIQUE ALSO STATES THAT THE KIDNAPPERS WILL NOT FURNISH ANY EVIDENCE AS TO THE VICTIM'S PHYSICAL CONDITION UNTIL THE COMPANY HAS ACCEDED TO THEIR DEMAND FOR PUBLICATION. ADDITIONALLY, THE KIDNAPPERS ARE SAID TO HAVE ALLEGED THAT THE COMPANY WAS STALLING, BLOCKING COMMUNICATIONS AND OFFERING EXCESSIVE COOPERATION TO THE VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES.

3. COLEMAN SAID THAT OI'S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE AT THIS POINT IS TO GET WORD TO THE KIDNAPPERS THAT "COMMUNIQUE NO. 5" HAS NEVER BEEN RECEIVED. HE WAS CONSIDERING USING TELEVISION ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 15 TO GET THIS MESSAGE ACROSS. HE IS ALSO INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING THE MANIFESTO PUBLISHED HERE AND/OR IN THE U.S. HE BELIEVES THAT THE GOV MAY TRY TO BLOCK PUBLICATION HERE. IN THAT CASE, HE MIGHT PUBLISH ABROAD AND HOPE FOR SUFFICIENT FEEDBACK IN VENEZUELA TO SATISFY THE KIDNAPPERS. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO SUGGESTION OF THE RANSOM DEMAND THAT THE COMPANY EXPECTED. ACCORDING TO COLEMAN, OI WANTS TO REACT BUT BELIEVES IT DOES NOT HAVE ALL THE FACTS. IN ANY CASE, A DECISION ON PUBLICATION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE SOON.

4. COMMENT: COLEMAN STATED THAT THE COMPANY WAS NOT ASKING ANYTHING FROM THE USG EXCEPT THE POSSIBLE USE OF SECURE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IF THAT BECAME NECESSARY. HE DID NOT REAISE THE QUESTION OF EMBASSY INTERVENTION WITH THE GOV ON THE PUBLICATION ISSUE. HE MIGHT DO SO, HOWEVER, AT ANY MOMENT AND WE COULD BE FACED WITH A VERY SHORT TIME FUSE.

SHLAUDEMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMUNIQUES, POLICE FORCES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 MAR 1976  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINS, ASEC, VE, (NIEHOUS, WILLIAM F), (LONGEN), (COLEMAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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